Shortage of University Special Buses for Delhi University

1553. SHRI JAGANNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the inadequate University special buses of the D. T. C. for Delhi University students;

(b) whether it is a fact that the students of the Delhi University have staged Dharna against inadequate bus facility; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take to mitigate the difficulties of the students ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) DTC are presently providing 930 U. special trips daily to and from various Colleges situated in the city including the University complex and South Delhi Campus. In addition to this the facility of all route students monthly concessional pass is also provided to the students, so that they can travel in its ordinary buses also.

It has come to the notice of the Govt. that a section of the students community staged Dharna outside the Police Headquarters on 5-11-92 demanding more U. Special trips. DTC have noted the demands of the students made during the Apex Co-ordination Committee meeting for diversion/extension/rationalisation of the U Specials presently operating. Due to fleet constraints the DTC are not in a position to provide more U Special trips to the students.

Commercial Exploitation of Surplus Land at Major Ports

1554. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to throw open surplus land belonging to all the major ports in the country for commercial exploitation by the private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Presently there is no such proposal. However, in case of Calcutta Port Trust (CPT), it is envisaged to develop about 81 acres of surplus land in association with M/s. Indian Road Construction Corporation (IRCC) which is a Public Sector Undertaking. The scheme will be self sustaining and revenue generating for port development.

Toll bases facilities on National Highways

1555. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to involve the private and Public sector in the construction, maintenance and operation of toll bases facilities on the National Highways; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) The Government has been contemplating to involve private sector in construction, maintenance and operation of fee based facilities on National Highways. To elicit views in regard to private participation, a seminar was organised in January, 1992 with respresentatives from private sector, financial institutions, State Government etc. A study on various aspects of privatisation under assistance of Asian Development Bank, has also been got completed recently. Keeping in view these development, the incentives proposed to be given to the Private Sector in respect of various obligations are yet to be finalised by the Government.

Need of Expressways in the Country

1556. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have estimated that nearly 5000 kms. of expressways are expected to be needed in various corridors by the turn of the century to cope with the increasing traffic in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the number of such corridors which are emanating from Delhi and Madhya Pradesh respectively;

(c) what action Government propose to take to achieve the target of expressways within the time frame;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there are 14 major National and State Highways where traffic density is expected to increase to 25000 passenger car units and above by 2000 AD; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take to tackle the density of traffic on these highways by the turn of the century ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) A study completed under the aegis of Asian Development Bank has made recommendation that this country would need an Expressly network of about 10,020 kilometres by the year 2015 A.D. Based on various assumptions, four corridors emanating from Delhi and three passing through Madhya Pradesh have been tentatively identified in the Study. The construction programme of Expressways, which would require large outlays, would mainly depend on funds available for the purpose and the relative priorities of different corridors based on detailed techno-economic feasibility studies.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. As per current trend of traffic, the density of passenger car units would reach 25,000 on a number of sections on National Highways in the country by 2000 A. D. However, during the 8th Plan period, the outlay provided for Central Sector Roads Programme amounting to Rs. 2600 crores, is sufficient mainly to meet the needs of the on-going development works on the National Highways. In view of paucity of funds, the present strategy is to attend to removal of deficiencies in the system by strengthening the existing weak pavements and widening to two lanes or four lanes respectively in selected sections of medium and high density corridors of National Highways within the limitation of overall availability of funds.

Wearing of Helmets by Two Wheeler Drivers and Pillion Riders and Safety Belts by Car Drivers

1557. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to notify rules making it compulsory to two wheeler drivers and pillion riders to wear helmets and to car drivers to wear safety belts as part of the road safety measures;

(b) if so, by when suitable amendments in the relevant Acts are proposed to be made; and

(c) to what extent it would help in reducing deaths due to road accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) A proposal to amend Section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act so as to make compulsory wearing of helmets by two-wheeler drivers and pillion riders is under consideration of the Government. A proposal to make mandatory the fitment of seat-belts in passenger cars manufactured from a notified date is also under consideration of the Government.

(b) Proposals are being finalised in consultation with the various concerned agencies and at this stage no definite date of notification/implementation can be indicated.

(c) Government believe that the proposed changes will reduce fatal accidents to a considerable degree.

Organisations port trust etc. functioning without Chairman

1558. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the organisations, Port Trust, Public Sector units and Authorities under his Ministry which are presently functioning without duly appointed Chairman; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to fill up such posts ?